

Presented to the Ad Hoc Committee on Ethnic Studies
at their 4:30 p.m. meeting

March 17, 1972.

To: Ad Hoc Committee on Ethnic Studies

On Thursday, March 9, 1972, we presented to you the members of the Ad Hoc Committee, a list of demands which were made by approximately 250 students, faculty and community persons assembled at a public hearing on that day. Of the demands listed it was requested that students and community persons be involved in the decision-making on the Ad Hoc Committee and any other committee reviewing Ethnic Studies, on an equal basis with faculty. For the Ad Hoc Committee, it was specifically requested that two more students and five community persons be appointed.

On Friday, March 10, 1972, you decided to reject these demands.

We write this letter to you to restate the reasons for making the demand of equalized faculty, community and student representation on this committee and all committees reviewing Ethnic Studies.

We want it to remain clearly understood, that our reasons are valid reasons, and that we will continue to seek the acceptance and realization of our demands in this regard.

The Concerned Students for Ethnic Studies are concerned with the development of a viable, cohesive Ethnic Studies program within the University of Hawaii."

Your Committee has been assigned the task of reviewing the current Ethnic Studies Program, receiving proposals for curriculum, governance, staffing, purpose and budget for a future Ethnic Studies Program, hearing testimony on these areas and developing an Ethnic Studies Proposal. This proposal will be recommended to the Dean of Arts & Sciences, to the Arts & Sciences Curriculum Committee, to the Manoa Chancellor and to the President of the University until submission for final approval to the Board of Regents.

By your rejection of our demands, you have defined that students can be adequately involved in your decision-making process by being represented by 3 students on your committee, and by submitting proposals and testimony into your committee.

By your rejection of our demands you have also defined that community persons can be adequately involved in your decision-making process by not having any representation on your committee, and by submitting proposals and testimony into your committee.

By your rejection of our demands you have defined that faculty are the only persons who can make the decision on the development of a viable cohesive Ethnic Studies Program within the University of Hawaii.

We understand that the decision-making process will then be made essentially by faculty persons after they review proposals, and hear testimony from faculty, students and community persons. Under this kind of process then, a decision is reached as the result of how a group of individuals relate to proposals which are submitted. They can only relate to these proposals from their own perspectives, standards and experiences. We Believe that with faculty being the primary decision-makers, the final outcome will be inadequate to the kind of Ethnic Studies Program we envision.

A good Ethnic Studies Program needs to relate students to the community in which they live and develop in. Education is to develop people to actively participate in their society to better it and therefore education should be concrete and practical. The Ethnic Studies Program has to be developed within the University of Hawaii to provide this kind of program.

Who can better relate to specific proposals as to how they will provide students a meaningful learning experience than students?

Who can better relate to specific proposals as to how the community can realistically and practically be involved in the program and as to how the community will be served and affected by the program than community persons?

For these reasons then, we believe the decision-making body for Ethnic Studies has to be well-rounded, and equally comprised of faculty, community and students in order to have a viable, well-rounded program developed. Input alone is not sufficient.

Realistically looking at the university structure, there is no decision-making body existing here which can serve the Ethnic Studies Program. It has unique and special needs.

Yet also realistically, a good Ethnic Studies Program cannot be developed by any other kind of decision-making process.

Therefore, we will seek to set up this kind of decision-making process and decision-making body for the Ethnic Studies Program within the University of Hawaii.

The body which operates under this process will have to be a final decision-making body for the Ethnic Studies Program. Its decision cannot be overridden by any faculty body which operates under a decision-making process isolated from students and community persons.

This may require that a little more time will be involved, but the end proposal will be better. It will have meaningfully involved the community and students initially and can therefore involve students and community persons when it will be implemented.

We cannot recognize the Ad Hoc Committee on Ethnic Studies as having legitimate decision-making power because it does not involve students and community persons in an equal decision-making role with the faculty, and because its final proposal will have to be submitted to the Arts & Sciences Curriculum Committee which operates in isolation from students and community persons.

Therefore, we hereby submit our resignations from this Ad Hoc Committee on Ethnic Studies. Furthermore, whereas, originally we agreed to submit a program proposal to this committee next week, we hereby notify you that we will not submit any proposal to this body but will reserve our program submission for the proper decision-making body.

Pat Pimentel
Michaela Ah Chan

CONCERNED STUDENTS FOR ETHNIC STUDIES

cc; Chancellor Takasaki
Dean Contois
ASUH President Maurice Nakahara
President Harland Cleveland

RESOLUTION

TO SUPPORT THE ETHNIC STUDIES PROGRAM AT THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AND TO URGE:

- A. ITS INCORPORATION AS A PERMANENT DEPARTMENT IN THE COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII, AND
- B. THE EMPLOYMENT OF A DIRECTOR AND STAFF PREDOMINANTLY OF PERSONS OF LOCAL ORIGIN, THOROUGHLY INTIMATE WITH LOCAL COMMUNITIES, ITS PEOPLE, AND THE LOCAL ETHNIC CULTURES, AND
- C. THE MEANINGFUL INVOLVEMENT OF COMMUNITY GROUPS AND INDIVIDUALS IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF A LONG TERM PROGRAM.

WHEREAS, the ETHNIC STUDIES PROGRAM, as approved by the Legislature in 1970, was designed to provide for the student insight and appreciation for, and of his own ethnic heritage and culture, as well as for, and of the various ethnic cultures in the State of Hawaii; and,

WHEREAS, many young people in Hawaii today should be provided an opportunity to know and understand the positive aspects of their own ethnic heritage and of the heritage of other ethnic groups in the State of Hawaii; and

WHEREAS, the ETHNIC STUDIES PROGRAM at the University of Hawaii was initiated to provide an innovative forum for the discussion of ethnic cultures and research staff to study the contemporary and historic problems confronting various ethnic and racial groups in Hawaii;; and

WHEREAS, the ETHNIC STUDIES PROGRAM was designed to include community participation to provide insight by sharing with studies the various life-styles and human values existing in community life in the State of Hawaii; and,

WHEREAS, it is necessary for the success of the program to have as its staff, persons with an intimate knowledge of local conditions, ethnic groups and their history; and

WHEREAS, the ETHNIC STUDIES PROGRAM is imminently threatened with elimination, or major changes which alter the program as conceived and initiated in 1970,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII IN ITS SESSION THAT:

First, we support the original intent of the ETHNIC STUDIES PROGRAM at the University of Hawaii; and

Second, we urge the BOARD OF REGENTS at the University of Hawaii to incorporate the ETHNIC STUDIES PROGRAM as a permanent department in the College of Arts and Sciences; and

Third, we urge the employment of a director and staff for the program who are persons predominantly of local origin, thoroughly intimate with local communities, its people, and the local ethnic cultures, and

Fourth, we urge the establishment of a program which provides for meaningful involvement of community groups and individuals in the development of a long term program.